

The Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Programs

The Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Programs (WEOP) purpose is to help educationally and economically disadvantaged students continue their education. The WEOP team:

- Seeks out, in the Wisconsin high schools and communities, students with college potential and encourages them to go on to higher education.
- Provides students with educational counseling to raise their career aspirations and confidence to succeed.
- Provides follow-up services after placement to enhance a student's chance for college adjustment.
- Encourages higher education institutions to provide for the unique needs of WEOP students.
- Provides bilingual counseling to students, and
- Helps educationally and economically disadvantaged students continue their education.

WEOP helps students and parents with:

- academic counseling;
- financial aid information;
- increasing early awareness of educational opportunities;
- clarifying vocational and educational goals;
- selecting an appropriate college or training program;
- completing admission forms and arranging for college entrance tests;
- applying for financial aid by explaining the process and helping fill out the financial aid form;
- applying for pre-college programs, and
- providing scholarship information, college catalogs, brochures, admissions application, and financial aid forms.

State Programs: There are several Department of Public Instruction WEOP State Programs that offer assistance:

1. Early Identification Program (EIP): EIP provides disadvantaged students with the necessary knowledge and skills in their academic preparation focusing on postsecondary education as an option for the future. EIP strives to increase student high school graduation rates and college entrance. The program focuses on academic enrichment, academic skill building, career exploration, or a combination of the three, and provides an opportunity to help life's choices unfold for students who might otherwise remain unaware or unsure of their abilities and talents. For more information, please view the EIP webpage, <http://dpi.wi.gov/weop/eip.html>.
2. DPI Precollege scholarship program: The DPI Precollege Scholarship Program provides funds to students eligible for free/reduced lunch for the purpose of helping students have the experience of being on a college campus and taking advantage of a variety of precollege program academic offerings in public, independent, and technical colleges.

The Precollege Scholarship helps students get a head start in college preparation. For more information and a copy of the Precollege Scholarship Application, please view the DPI webpage, <http://dpi.wi.gov/weop/precol.html>.

3. Talent Search Program: This broadly based, comprehensive statewide program is designed to seek students with academic potential from multicultural and disadvantaged backgrounds and encourage them to complete high school and go on to college. Individuals with ability who did not complete high school are also encouraged and advised by Wisconsin Education Opportunity Program (WEOP) counselors to earn a GED or high school diploma so they can go on to college or technical school. For more information, please view the talent search program webpage, http://dpi.wi.gov/weop/state_talserch.html.
4. Talent Incentive Grant (TIP): The Talent Incentive Program Grant provides grant assistance to the most needy and educationally disadvantaged resident students attending eligible colleges and universities in the State of Wisconsin. The grant is designed to improve the opportunity for access, retention, and graduation and to lessen the burden of student debt. Each WEOP office has its own list of required supporting documents for the TIP Grant. Contact the office in your county to find out what documents are needed. For more information, please view the TIP webpage, <http://dpi.wi.gov/weop/tipgrt.html>. A download of the application form is on the webpage.

Federal Programs: There are several Department of Public Instruction-WEOP Federal Programs that offer assistance:

1. Gear Up: Gear Up provides early intervention and college awareness to all the students enrolled in the DPI program. All priority students must qualify for free or reduced lunch and must be attending one of the targeted schools at the time of enrollment. The goals of the state program are to: 1) retain the students in middle and high school; 2) help students graduate from high school; 3) enroll students into post-secondary educational programs, and 4) award college freshmen and continuing scholars a GEAR UP Scholarship. For more information and an application form, please view the Gear Up webpage at http://dpi.wi.gov/weop/fed_gearup.html.
2. Educational Talent Search: Educational Talent Search helps low-income students prepare for the future. This program provides academic, personal, and career counseling to 665 students enrolled in participating middle and high schools associated with the Northern Regional WEOP offices of Ashland, Eau Claire, Green Bay and Wausau. Talent Search staff assist students in obtaining the knowledge, skills, and self-esteem to complete high school and go onto a higher education. For more information, please view the ETS webpage, at http://dpi.wi.gov/weop/fed_talserch.html.
3. Upward Bound: provides support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides low-income, first generation participants the skills and motivation necessary to complete their secondary education and to enter and succeed at a post-secondary institution. For more information, please view the Upward Bound webpage at http://dpi.wi.gov/weop/fed_upward.html.

WEOP counselors: WEOP has seven statewide offices: Ashland, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, and Wausau. A copy of the directory can be found at this webpage, <http://dpi.wi.gov/weop/directory.html>.

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